

FURY

By Lorraine Viade, PsyD



Fury is a very intense series of moments in the lives of ill-fated soldiers who fought during World War II. Brad Pitt is their hardened leader who has seen the worst that war has to offer and still finds his purpose in the battles. His motley crew of misfits charge along in a tank named Fury. However, the real fury is not in the armor or the bullets, but in the spirits of these wounded warriors. Into the mix comes the proverbial newbie, fresh-faced and not at all ready for the grim picture that engulfs him physically, emotionally and spiritually. It is barrage after barrage and assault after assault for these men. How each of them handles it is what *Fury* is all about. I think the filmmakers wanted to depict just how oppressive war is from moment to moment and they succeeded. I was left moved and weary, and thankful for those who have the courage to fight where few of us would survive.

There is a disturbing, yet life-affirming moment in the film that serves as an emotional break in the bloody tension of it all. If you know that you are facing your last moments on earth, how do you live each moment? Do you embrace whatever opportunity for joy is offered? Do you hide and live those moments in fear? Or, do you push on until you have no more life left because that is what you signed up to do? If you want the answers to these questions, check out *Fury*.

Fury also shows how war changes people and how much stress is tolerated. There is no wonder that so many come home scarred not only physically but emotionally from their service. No matter what branch of the armed forces, putting yourself in harm's way day after day, minute after minute cannot be easy for anyone. Whether drafted, enlisted or forced by oppressive forces, war really is hell. How we treat those who have been there and back is a topic that we need to address, especially as we remember our servicemen and women on Veteran's Day.

Fury gets to the heart of the sacrifice and the cost that is paid in lives forever changed, forever lost, but not forgotten. To those soldiers who have fought and survived, and to those who fought and died, thank you for your courage and commitment. There is a line

in the film, “Ideals are peaceful. History is violent.” Sadly, as long as there are opposing forces in the world, this will remain true.

I give *Fury* three tanks.

